(b) if so, what are the steps taken by Government in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Coconut Development Board under Ministry of Agriculture is implementing following programmes to expand and improve coconut cultivation:—

(i) Production and distribution of queality planting material;

(ii) Project for area expansion under coconut;

(iii) Integrated farming in coconut small holding in Kerala for produetivity improvement;

(iv) Project for providing assistance for irrigation facilities to coconut growers; and

(v) Integrated control of leaf eating caterpillar and removal of disease affected palms.

Besides, under State Sector, various State Governments are implementing programmes for production and supply of planting material and control of diseases.

815. *[Transferred to* 12th *September.* 1991].

Doubling of Railway Line from Shoranur to Mangalore

816. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to double the railway line from Shoranur to Mangalore; and

(b) if so. what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and

(b) A preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey has been taken up to ascertain the need of doubling on Mangalore-Shoranur section.

Damage due to floods

817. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to. state:

(a) whether it is a fact that floods have caused damage in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, what is the extent of damage to lives caused in various States; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to meet the situation and also to provide compensation for the same?

THE MIINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of reports received from the State Governments, 933 persons lost their lives due to floods in the States of Assam, Karnataka, Kerala. Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Sikkim during the current monsoon.

(c) Under the present scheme for financing the relief expenditure a Calamity Relief Fund has been constituted for each State with 75 per cent Central contribution and 25 per cent State contribution. The Central Government has already released 50 per cent of its share during 1991-92 to all the State Governments. The concerned State Governments are taking necessary relief and rehabilitation measures in the affected areas including *ex-gratia* poyments to the kith and kin of the deceased, from the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund. The norms for relief are set up by the concerned State Governments.